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EPA 7/18/06

CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-28 (cancelled)

29. (currently amended) An isolated oligonucleotide specifically hybridizable under moderate stringency hybridization conditions, equivalent to 40% formamide with 5x or 6x SSC, wash conditions 2X SSC/ 0.1% SDS, to the nucleic acid molecule encoding on expression a soluble leptin receptor polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- a. a DNA molecule of SEQ ID NO: 9; and
- b. a DNA molecule that codes on expression for the soluble leptin receptor polypeptide encoded by ~~any of~~ the foregoing DNA molecules,

wherein said oligonucleotide does not hybridize under moderate stringency hybridization conditions to nucleic acid encoding the leptin receptor polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 84.

30. (currently amended) An isolated oligonucleotide specifically hybridizable under moderate stringency hybridization conditions, equivalent to 40% formamide with 5x or 6x SSC, wash conditions 2X SSC/ 0.1% SDS, to the nucleic acid molecule which codes on expression for a soluble leptin receptor polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- a. a soluble leptin receptor OB-Re (SEQ ID NO:10); and
- b. a leptin receptor of amino acids 28-805 of SEQ ID NO:10,

wherein said oligonucleotide does not hybridize under moderate stringency hybridization conditions to nucleic acid encoding the leptin receptor polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 84.